

"BP" DESIGN PERFIN ON 1957 SCOUT STAMPS

Rosemary Smith

These perfins, only seen on mint stamps to date, have been mentioned and speculated upon in quite a number of previous Bulletins. Now there may be a significant break through in this mystery.

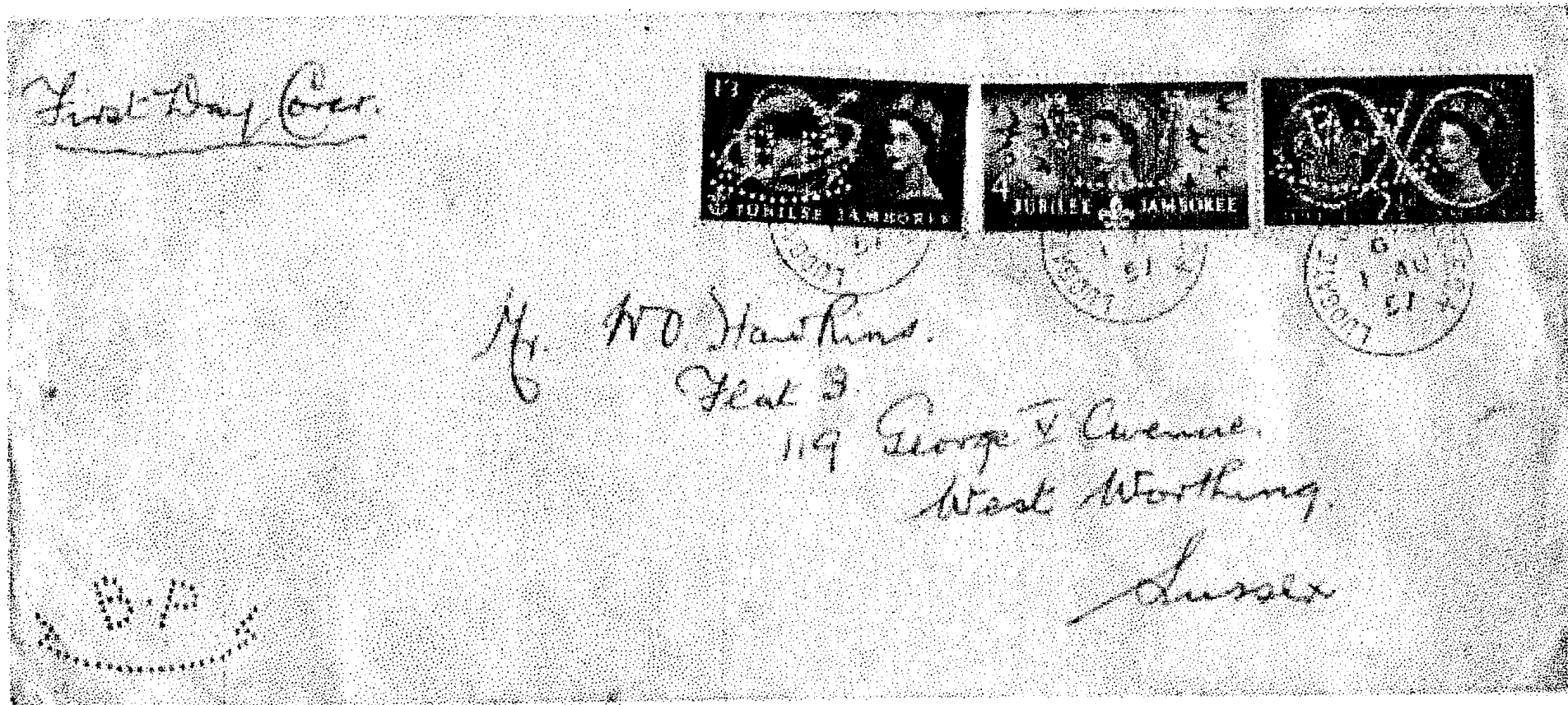
JEFF TURNBULL sent me a print out from eBay auctions, which shows a FDC of the 1957 Scouts set perforated with the 3 different types of design. The envelope itself is perforated through with the design found on the 2½d value. The envelope is addressed, in manuscript, to Mr. W.O.Hawkins in West Worthing, Sussex.

As soon as I saw the writing, *Mr. W.O.Hawkins*, I knew I had seen this same signature before. Mr W.O.Hawkins was the Company Secretary at Slopers from at least 1939 to 1960. I have photocopies of advertising leaflets during this period with his signature as Secretary. The signature on these leaflets is not written in ink but a perforated signature. Some years ago Bill Cokayne told me that it was practice for the Secretary and Directors to have a perforated signature die made. The reason being that if there were numerous papers to sign, they were out of the office, on holiday etc, the perforated signature could be used.

This FDC leads me to the belief that Slopers did indeed make the dies for these "BP Designs". The perforation through the envelope links the sending of the cover to the actual die machine, unlike a user simply affixing bought stamps to an envelope. My guess is that these Scout stamps were perforated as a commemorative item, and in the same vein as the 1939 Sloper Plaque, were intended for employees and special customers.

The first mention of these mint stamps in our Bulletin is 1993, and the year we, the Society, acquired all the ledgers etc from Slopers before the works closed, was 1991. Perhaps the surplus Scout stamp perfins were sold to a dealer?

By the way, the final price for the FDC was \$93



We are dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
J.Sloper & Co. Ltd.

W.O. Hawthins.
Secretary.